

## Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAJ-01 /088 W

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R 211322Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6755

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3097

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, UR, US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION TO KISSINGER/GROMYKO MEETING

SUMMARY: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION TO KISSINGER/GROMYKO MEETING IS MIXED. SOME STRESS OPINION THAT IT PAVES WAY TO RENEWAL OF INTERIM SETTLEMENT TALKS. OTHER PAPERS EXPRESS DOUBT OVER EXTENT OF REAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND AND SOVIET UNION ON MID EAST AND INTENTIONS OF ARABS. END SUMMARY.

1. KISSINGER/GROMYKO MEETING IS HEADLINE STORY IN ALL NEWSPAPERS. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS INCLUDE SEPARATE EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES ON SUBJECT.

2. MAARIV HEADLINE STORY BY ITS WASHINGTON-BASED WRITER (SEGEV) SAID: "KISSINGER WAS SURPRISED AT GROMYKO'S MODERATE POSITION AND HAD PROMISED HIM IN RETURN THAT FORD'S INITIATIVE. ...IS THE LAST ONE BEFORE IT WILL BE DECIDED TO CONVENE GENEVA CONF..." SEGEV ADDS THAT " IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT IS THE 'PRICE' THAT KISSINGER AGREED TO PAY IN RETURN FOR THE

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MODERATE SOVIET APPROACH. SOURCES IN WASHINGTON SAY THAT THE

SOVIET APPROACH REFLECTS... FRUSTRATION IN THE FACE OF THE MEAGRE RESULTS OF THE SOVIET DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE IN THE VARIOUS ARAB STATES AND THE PLO. NOT ONLY ISRAEL SHOWED 'TOUGHNESS' IN ITS REFUSAL TO TALK WITH THE PLO: THE ARAB THEMSELVES WERE DIVIDED ON THE VARIOUS TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN GENEVA. PLO REFUSES TO COME TO GENEVA UNLESS 242 RESOLUTION REGARDING THEM AS REFUGEES... IS CHANGED. IRAQ DOES NOT WANT DISCUSSIONS OF ANY KING WITH ISRAEL... WHILE THE EGYPTIANS REJECT A SECOND-STAGE AGREEMENT BEFORE THE RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONF. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS THE USSR HAS AGREED TO POSTPONE THE CONFERENCE UNTIL AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER AND ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN WASHINGTON FURTHER POSTPONEMENTS MUST NOT BE EXCLUDED..." SOURCES ADD THAT "USSR PROMISED KISSINGER THAT MOSCOW WOULD BE FLEXIBLE REGARDING THE FIXING OF A DATE FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE AND ALLOW KISSINGER TO WORK OUT ANOTHER AGREEMENT ON THE SINAI: IN RETURN, IT SEEMS THAT MOSCOW INSISTED THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONVENED AND THE PLO BE INVITED AS AN INDEPENDENT DELEGATION.. THE AMERICAN POSITION ON THE PALESTINIANS HAS NOT CHANGED SO FAR..."

3. YEDIDOT POLITICAL REPORTER GUNNEY WRITES THAT "UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES ISRAEL CAN BE VERY SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE GROMYKO/KISSINGER MEETING... REPORTS ON THE MEETING INDICATE THAT ANOTHER CHANCE IS GIVEN TO ACHIEVE AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT, AND MAYBE WITH SYRIA ALSO: THAT THE GENEVA CONF IS POSTPONED... UNTIL THE END OF THE SUMMER: THAT THE SOVIETS PROMISED NOT TO ENCOURAGE THE MOST EXTREME ELEMENTS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND THAT THEY WILL NOT INSIST ON INVITING PLO TO GENEVA AS LONG AS THE ORGANIZATION ADHERES TO ITS TRADITIONAL POLICY..." GUENEY ADDS A NOTE OF CAUTION SAYING THAT "MAYBE THE AMERICANS EXAGGERATE GROMYKO'S MODERATION... BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT FOR THE TIME BEING MOSCOW WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE MID EAST DISPUTE DOES NOT ENDANGER THE REST OF ITS PLANS FOR THE SUMMER AND AUTUMN..."

4. JERUSALEM POST EDITORIAL WRITES THAT "THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE... THAT SOVIETS HAVE, AT THIS STAGE, AT LEAST, CONCLUDED THAT THE US SHOULD AGAIN TRY TO DETERMINE IF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL COULD STILL BE WORKED OUT. SUCH A COURSE COULD ALSO LEAD TO A RENEWED GENEVA CONF, BUT ITS AGENDA WOULD NOT BE STALKED BY THE THREAT OF DEADLOCK OVER UNCLASSIFIED

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THE QUESTION OF A GENERAL MID EAST SETTLEMENT. FOR EVEN THE SOVIETS HAVE APPARENTLY COME TO REALIZE THAT FOR THE PRESENT SUCH AN AGENDA, GIVEN THE INFLUENCE OF THE MORE RADICAL FORCES IN THE ARAB WORLD, WOULD ONLY SERVE TO HEIGHTEN TENSION BY HIGHLIGHTING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES, AND ALSO THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IT AND WASHINGTON...."

5. MAARIV EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT "U.S. AND THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE QUESTION 'WHAT TO DO IN THE MIDDLE EAST'..." EDITORIAL ADDS THAT " IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS... THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE CONVENED AND NO NEW DECISIVE STEP WILL BE TAKEN BY THE TWO SUPERPOWERS. THIS EXTENSION OF TIME CAN BE DEVOTED BY THE AMERICANS TO THE 'REASSESSMENT' OF THEIR MID EAST POLICY WHILE THE SOVIETS MAY PERHAPS TRY TO PERUSUADE THE PLO TO USE MORE 'RESERVED AND RESTRAINED' FORMULATIONS IF THEY WANT TO SEND A DELEGATION TO GENEVA... THE QUESTION IS... TO WHAT EXTENT DO THE ARABS SHARE THE U.S./SOVIET FEELING THAT 'NOTHING IS BURNING' AND THAT ONE CAN WAIT WITH EQUANIMITY UNTIL THE AUTUMN. THE GREAT PREPARATIONS IN THE ARAB CAMP, THE JOURNEYS OF THE ARAB LEADERS, THE SECRET TALKS AND THE PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS CREAE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ARAB RULERS ARE NOT AT ALL SATISFIED WITH THE SLOW TEMPO WHICH THE SUPERPOWERS WANT TO INRDODUCE..."

6. HATZOFÉ EDITORIAL DOUBTS WHETHER A 'COMMON DENOMINATOR' EXISTS BETWEEN THE POSITION OF THE TWO SUPERPOWES ON THE MID EAST AND WRITES THAT "DESPITE THE ' CALM ATMOSPHERE' WHICH PREVAILED IN THE VIENNA TALKS, ONE CANNOT IGNORE THE CONTRASTS AND CONFLICTING INTERESTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND USSR IN EVERYTHING CONCERNING THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE..." IT CONCLUDES THAT " IT SEEMS THAT IN THE VIENNA TALKS THEY EXCHANGED VIEWS AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE 'TO MAKE A JOINT EFFRT,' WHILE THE CONCRETE DECISIONS WERE LEFT FOR LATER, AFTER THE MEETINGS BETWEEN FORD AND SADAT AND RABIN..."  
VELIOTES

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, IS, UR, US, GENEVA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (GROMYKO, ANDREY)  
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